

## A HALLOWEEN STORY

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HALLOWEEN IS A HAPPY TIME. AT HALLOWEEN THE WHOLE  
NEIGHBORHOOD BECOMES ONE FAMILY. EVERY HOUSE <sup>on the block</sup> BECOMES A  
PART OF <sup>one big</sup> ~~THE~~ PARTY. EVERY HOUSE SERVES REFRESHMENTS TO  
EVERYONE, WHETHER YOU ARE INVITED OR NOT. IN FACT, HALLOWEEN  
IS THAT WONDERFUL TIME WHEN YOU ESPECIALLY GO TO SOMEONE ELSE'S  
HOUSE <sup>TO EAT</sup> RATHER THAN TO YOUR OWN. WHO HASN'T COME HOME WITH A  
BAGFUL OF GOODIES ON HALLOWEEN NITE, WITH CANDY OF ALL <sup>Kind</sup> ~~DESCRIPTIONS~~,  
WITH CHEWING GUM AND GUM BALLS, WITH LOLLIPOPS AND TOOTSIE ROLLS? <sup>chewy-beans</sup>  
HALLOWEEN IS A SWEET-TASTING HOLIDAY, AND MOTHER EVEN LETS US  
EAT SOME OF THE CANDY BEFORE SHE SAYS, "IF YOU EAT ALL OF THAT  
YOU'LL GET SICK". OF COURSE, MOTHER IS RIGHT, BUT WE NEVER LIKE  
FOR HER TO TAKE <sup>PART OF</sup> OUR BAG OF CANDY, EVEN IF IT IS FOR OUR OWN GOOD.  
ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF HALLOWEEN IS THE COSTUMES.  
EVERYWHERE YOU GO YOU SEE <sup>spooky ghosts in white sheets</sup> ~~LITTLE GOBLINS~~, BLACK WITCHES, AND <sup>hairy</sup>  
SCAREY GORILLAS. MOST PEOPLE DON'T TRY TO DRESS UP. PRETTY ON  
HALLOWEEN. THEY TRY TO DRESS UP UGLY OR SCAREY. HAVEN'T YOU SEEN  
A TWO FEET TALL GORILLA COME TO <sup>Your front</sup> ~~THE~~ DOOR, WITH A HORRIBLE MASK  
AND <sup>toat</sup> ~~SAY~~, "TWICK OR TWEAT". IT'S A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE! THEN,  
WHEN THE WITCHES COME YOU ARE AFRAID THAT THEY WILL HIT YOU WITH  
THEIR BROOM, BUT THE WITCHES ARE SO BOWED DOWN WITH THE WEIGHT

OF THEIR CANDY BAGS THAT THEY DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LIFT THEIR BROOM. ISN'T IT INTERESTING THAT ON HALLOWEEN EVERYONE PRETENDS TO BE BAD AND SCAREY? EVERYONE GOES AROUND THREATENING TO DO SOMETHING WRONG, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT VERY FEW INTEND TO DO ANYTHING WRONG. EVERYONE IS JUST JOKING. I MUST ADMIT THAT SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED ON MY FRONT PORCH THIS LAST HALLOWEEN. SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING DROPPED A RAW EGG ON MY PORCH, BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANYBODY DRESSED UP LIKE A CHICKEN. HALLOWEEN IS CLEARLY A NIGHT OF GREAT MYSTERY!

THERE IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY WHICH IS LIKE HALLOWEEN IN SOME WAYS. THE NAME OF THIS HOLIDAY IS PURIM. ON PURIM JEWS GET DRESSED UP IN COSTUMES AND HAVE PARTIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE SYNAGOGUE. ON PURIM THE CHILDREN DRESS DIFFERENTLY THAN THEY DO ON HALLOWEEN. INSTEAD OF DRESSING UP AS A WITCH, THEY DRESS UP AS A BEAUTY QUEEN, LIKE ESTHER. <sup>like a King or like</sup> INSTEAD OF DRESSING UP AS A DEVIL, THEY DRESS UP <sup>AS</sup> MORDECAI, THE HERO WHO HELPED TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE. ON HALLOWEEN EVERYONE TRIES TO BE A BAD GUY, ON PURIM EVERYONE TRIES TO BE A GOOD GUY. WE MIGHT SAY THAT ON HALLOWEEN WE HAVE "UGLY CONTESTS", BUT ON PURIM WE HAVE "BEAUTY CONTESTS". IT IS FUN TO DRESS UP UGLY SOMETIMES, BECAUSE IN THIS WAY WE CAN LET OUT SOME OF THE MEANNESS WE ALL HAVE. WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO BE A DEVIL, JUST A LITTLE BIT, AND DRESSING UP LIKE THE DEVIL, MAKES US FEEL HAPPY TO LET OUT A LITTLE MEANNESS IN A NICE WAY. IT IS ALSO FUN TO

DRESS UP AS A HERO, BECAUSE EACH OF US SECRETLY WANTS TO BE LIKE ESTHER AND MORDECAI, WINNER OF THE CONTEST, CHEERED BY THE CROWD. WHAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IS THAT BACK IN THE TIME OF THE BIBLE, WHEN THE STORY OF PURIM WAS WRITTEN, THE JEWS WOULD GO OUT INTO THE STREETS IN THEIR COSTUMES, AND EXCHANGE GIFTS. IN THE OLD DAYS, THE JEWS WOULD GIVE OUT CANDY AT PURIM TIME, BUT, MOSTLY, THEY ~~WERE~~ MADE LITTLE CAKES SHAPED LIKE HAMAN'S HAT AND FILLED WITH DELICIOUS FRUIT. JEWS DO THIS AT PURIM TIME, EVEN TODAY.

BEHIND THE HOLIDAY OF HALLOWEEN ARE MANY FAIRY TALES WHICH WE LIKE TO REPEAT, TALES OF <sup>ghosts and</sup> GOBLINS, <sup>or</sup> AND PUMPKINS, AND WITCHES. BEHIND THE HOLIDAY OF PURIM IS A TRUE STORY WHICH HAPPENED A LONG, LONG, TIME AGO. THE INTERESTING THING IS THAT THE STORY OF PURIM SEEMS TO HAPPEN OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND IN DIFFERENT TIMES. IN EVERY AGE OF HUMAN HISTORY, SOME KING OR RULER TRIES TO HARM THE JEWISH PEOPLE, BUT SOMEBODY LIKE ESTHER OR MORDECAI <sup>saves them</sup> ~~COMES TO THEIR AID~~. SO EACH YEAR, THERE IS ANOTHER REASON TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY OF PURIM. IN MODERN TIMES, THE JEWS ARE SUFFERING IN RUSSIA AND IN ISRAEL. THEY NEED ALL THE HELP THAT YOU AND I CAN GIVE THEM.

UNFORTUNATELY, REAL LIFE IS NOT ONE PARTY AFTER ANOTHER. HALLOWEEN IS JUST A ~~PASSING~~ MOMENT WHEN PEOPLE SMILE AT AND HELP EACH OTHER. THE PURIM STORY IS A STORY MUCH MORE TRUE. SOME PEOPLE DRESS LIKE WITCHES JUST TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH, BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE

↓  
like Haman

REALLY AS MEAN AS WITCHES, EVEN IF THEY DON'T DRESS UP LIKE A  
WITCH. WE CAN'T LET THESE PEOPLE HURT OTHERS. EVEN IF WE ARE  
AFRAID TO OPPOSE THEM, WE MUST DO SO, AS ESTHER AND MORDECAI DID.

ESTHER AND MORDECAI ARE HEROES, NOT JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE  
BRAVE. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY WERE VERY MUCH AFRAID, BUT ~~BEING~~  
AFRAID OF HAMAN AND ~~HIS FRIENDS~~, THEY STILL STOOD IN ~~THEIR WAY~~ TO  
KEEP ~~THEM~~ FROM HURTING ~~OTHER~~ PEOPLE. IT IS NICE TO HAVE A PARTY  
FOR NO REASON. IT IS BETTER TO HAVE A PARTY CELEBRATING A HARD  
WON VICTORY. PURIM IS THAT KIND OF PARTY. IT REMINDS US THAT  
LIFE IS NOT ALL PLAY. IT REMINDS US, ALSO, THAT THOSE WHO WORK  
HARD AT THE REAL BUSINESS OF LIFE ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR HAPPINESS.  
THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWN WHAT IT IS TO BE HUNGRY ENJOY FOOD THE MOST.  
THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THIRSTY FOR A LONG WHILE, ENJOY A COLD DRINK  
THE MOST. THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWN SADNESS, ENJOY A DANCE and a song THE MOST.  
THE MESSAGE OF HALLOWEEN IS - HAVE A PARTY JUST FOR LAUGHS. THE  
MESSAGE OF PURIM IS - WHEN A PAUSE IN THE BATTLE of life COMES, DON'T  
FORGET TO BE HAPPY. IN THE PUSH AND PULL OF LIFE, WE NEED BOTH  
HALLOWEEN AND PURIM. LET US TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BOTH.